

## I. AMENDMENT

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The composition of ~~claim 1~~ claim 10 wherein the cation is tetralkylammonium.

3. (currently amended) The composition of ~~claim 1~~ claim 10 wherein the anion is an aluminum chloride anion.

4. (currently amended) A Lewis acid ionic liquid composition comprising:

(a) a cation selected from ammonium, sulfonium, and phosphonium cations wherein said cation has less than 14 total carbon atoms; and

(b) an anion having the formula  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  wherein y is greater than 0 and R is independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and halogen group with the proviso that when the cation is triethylmethyl ammonium the anion is selected from aluminum bromide, or aluminum iodide;

wherein the cation is tetralkylammonium and ~~The composition of Claim 2~~ wherein one or more of the alkyl groups is substituted with an ether group.

5. (currently amended) A Lewis acid ionic liquid composition comprising:

(a) a cation selected from ammonium, sulfonium, and phosphonium cations wherein said cation has less than 14 total carbon atoms; and

(b) an anion having the formula  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  wherein y is greater than 0 and R is independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and halogen group with the proviso that when the cation is triethylmethyl ammonium the anion is selected from aluminum bromide, or aluminum iodide;

wherein the cation is tetralkylammonium and ~~The composition of Claim 2~~ wherein one or more of the alkyl groups is substituted with one or more halogens.

6. (currently amended) A Lewis acid ionic liquid composition comprising:

(a) a cation selected from ammonium, sulfonium, and phosphonium cations wherein said cation has less than 14 total carbon atoms; and

(b) an anion having the formula  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  wherein y is greater than 0 and R is independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and halogen group with the proviso that when the cation is triethylmethyl ammonium the anion is selected from aluminum bromide, or aluminum iodide;

~~The composition of Claim 1~~ wherein the cation is selected from trimethylethyl ammonium, bis(N-alkyl) substituted piperidinium, trimethyl chloromethyl ammonium, trimethylbutyl ammonium, and tributyl methyl ammonium.

7. (original) The composition of Claim 6 wherein the piperidinium is substituted with a methyl and one group selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_2OMe$ , butyl, and propyl.

8. (original) The composition of Claim 6 wherein the anion is an aluminum chloride anion.

9. (original) The composition of Claim 7 wherein the anion is an aluminum chloride anion.

10. (currently amended) A Lewis acid ionic liquid composition comprising:

(a) a cation selected from ammonium, sulfonium, and phosphonium cations wherein said cation has less than 14 total carbon atoms; and

(b) an anion having the formula  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  wherein y is greater than 0 and R is independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and halogen group with the proviso that when the cation is triethylmethyl ammonium the anion is selected from aluminum bromide, or aluminum iodide; ~~The composition of Claim 1~~

and further comprising a salt comprising quaternary ammonium cations and halide anions.

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The process of ~~claim 11~~ claim 14 wherein the ratio of ammonium, sulfonium, or ~~phosphoniumhalide~~ phosphonium halide with  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  is such that any heat produced by the reaction is controlled.

13. (currently amended) The process of ~~claim 11~~ claim 15 wherein the ammonium, sulfonium, or phosphonium halide is in molar excess of the  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$ .

14. (currently amended) A process for preparing an ionic liquid composition comprising reacting a cation source with an anion source to form an ionic liquid that comprises:

(a) a cation selected from ammonium, sulfonium, and phosphonium cations wherein said cation has less than 14 total carbon atoms; and

(b) an anion having the formula  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  wherein y is greater than 0 and R is independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and a halogen group with the proviso that when the cation is triethylmethyl ammonium the anion is selected from aluminum bromide, or aluminum iodide;

~~The process of Claim 11~~ wherein the  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  is in molar excess of the ammonium, sulfonium, or phosphonium halide.

15. (currently amended) A process for preparing an ionic liquid composition comprising reacting a cation source with an anion source to form an ionic liquid that comprises:

(a) a cation selected from ammonium, sulfonium, and phosphonium cations wherein said cation has less than 14 total carbon atoms; and

(b) an anion having the formula  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  wherein y is greater than 0 and R is independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and a halogen group with the

proviso that when the cation is triethylmethyl ammonium the anion is selected from aluminum bromide, or aluminum iodide; ~~The process of Claim 11,~~

and further comprising contacting the cation source with a solvent and removing heat generated during reaction of the cation source and anion source by evaporation and condensation of the solvent.

16. (original) The process of Claim 15 wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of cyclohexane, an alkane, and toluene.

Claim 17 (canceled)

18. (original). An ionic liquid composition, comprising:

- (a) a cation comprising a pyrrolidine-based structure; and
- (b) an anion having the formula  $Al_yR_{3y+1}$  wherein y is greater than 0 and R is independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and halogen group.

19. (original) An ionic liquid composition, comprising:

- (a) a cation selected from the group consisting of ammonium, sulfonium, and phosphonium cations, said cation being non-tetrahedrally symmetric;
- (b) a anion containing at least two aluminum atoms, the aluminum atoms being bonded together by an organic bridge to stabilize the chloroaluminate anion and inhibit leaching from the chloroaluminate anion.

20. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein the organic bridge comprises an alcoxide group to inhibit leaching of aluminum trichloride during use.

21. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein the organic bridge comprises an arene group to inhibit leaching of aluminum trichloride during use.

22. (currently amended) The composition of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 19, ~~wherein the anion is a aluminum chloride anion, and~~ wherein the cation is sourced from an ammonium salt selected from the group consisting of MeBu<sub>3</sub>N Cl, Me<sub>3</sub>PentylN Cl, Me<sub>3</sub>ButylN Cl, MeEt<sub>3</sub>N Cl, Me<sub>2</sub>Et<sub>2</sub>N Cl, Cl-CH<sub>2</sub>-NMe<sub>3</sub> Cl, and N-methyl-N-Butyl Pyrolidinium Cl.

23. (original) An ionic liquid selected from the group consisting of N-alkyl substituted piperidinium heptachlorodialuminate, trimethyl chloromethyl ammonium heptachlorodialuminate, trimethylbutyl ammonium heptachlorodialuminate, and tributyl methyl ammonium heptachlorodialuminate.

24. (original) A process for synthesizing an ionic liquid, comprising:

- (a) reacting a first reactant with an alkyl halide in an organic solvent, thereby forming a cation as a halide salt, the first reactant being selected from the group consisting of amine, phosphine, and mercaptan;
- (b) adding heat to organic solvent to cause it to boil, thereby forming an azeotrope between the organic solvent and water;
- (c) removing water from the mixture by azeotropic distillation; and
- (d) contacting the halide salt with a chloroaluminate to form an ionic liquid.

25. (original) The process of Claim 24, further comprising refluxing the solvent to remove at least a portion of heat generated by reaction.

26. (original) The process of Claim 24, further comprising separating the solvent from the ionic liquid by liquid extraction.

27. (original) The process of claim 24, further comprising separating the organic solvent from the formed ionic liquid by distillation under vacuum conditions.

28. (original) The process of claim 24, further comprising removing a portion of the organic solvent from the mixture by distillation, removing impurities from the portion of the organic solvent, and recycling the portion of the organic solvent back into the mixture.

29. (original) The process of claim 24, wherein the organic solvent is cyclohexane.

30. (original) The composition of claim 19, wherein the anion has a structure that is selected from the group consisting of the following:



